



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Mr. James Cragin  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore  
Mr. Michael A. Russell

### **MINUTES** **OF THE REGULAR MEETING** **OF APRIL 14, 2004**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Montano at 10:08 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairperson Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

#### **ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL**

##### Present:

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montano  
Vice Chairperson Helen Stathatos  
Frank Bacio  
Vito Cannella  
John Hammargren  
Carl Moore  
Michael Russell

##### Excused Absence:

James Cragin

##### Staff

B. Eugene Romig  
Sherry Scates

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2004**

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Moore and unanimously carried, the minutes of April 14, 2004 were approved with the following corrections:

- **Page 3, Five Acres, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence should read:** *The Executive Director is Robert Ketch. Last sentence should read: Five Acres has closed this facility and the property has been sold.*

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

None

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported on the Commissioners' Charitable Funds balance as follows:

April 7, 2004 Balance:	\$785.78
Deposits made during period:	<u>60.00</u>
Current ending balance:	\$845.78

### **CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

Chairperson Montano reported that Commissioners received an invitation to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Peace Officers' Memorial which is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Star Center. A reception will be held at 9:00 and the program will begin at 10:00 a.m. Following discussion, staff was asked to make reservations for 10 people, which would include Commissioners and guests.

### **FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS**

#### **Lomita Station**

Commissioners Montano and Hammargren visited the Lomita Station, 26123 S. Narbonne Avenue, Lomita on April 8<sup>th</sup> and were escorted by Lt. Sherrie Anderson and Deputy Roberta Cohen. The **overall rating was excellent**. The grounds are well maintained and training was up to date.

Commissioner Hammargren noted the significant progress the Sheriff's Department has made in the recruitment, training and advancement of minorities since Sheriff Pitchess allowed the first females to work patrol in the early 1970's. For example, the Watch Commander Lt. the Deputy and the Jailer at the Lomita Station are females and the new Captain at Pico Rivera is a female. Also, a now retired, very competent female Commander, Linda Healey, was the first female patrol officer on the California Highway Patrol and was trained by the first African-American patrol officer in the Highway Patrol.

### **Pico Rivera Station**

Commissioners Montano and Hammagren visited the Pico Rivera Station, 6631 S. Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera on April 12<sup>th</sup> and were introduced to the new Captain, Irma Becerra, and escorted by Custody Assistant John McCloud. The **overall rating was excellent**; however, with 30 plus inmates at any given time, another shower should be added if at all possible.

### **Lakewood Sheriff's Station**

Commissioners Moore and Bacio visited the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, 5120 Clark Avenue, Lakewood on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The Captain in charge was Dave Fender and Commissioners were escorted by Lt. Bobier and Jailer Calderon. The **overall rating was excellent**. Commissioner Bacio noted that since the Commission's last visit this station has constructed a memorial for their fallen officers, which seems to be a trend within the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Bacio further noted that since this facility serves 5 communities, they are working on plans to expand this facility in the near future by adding a second story.

### **Norwalk Regional Center - Sheriff's Station**

Commissioners Bacio and Moore visited the Norwalk Regional Center, 12334 Civic Center Drive, Norwalk on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The Captain in charge was Ralph Webb and Commissioners were escorted by Officer Leal and Jailer Winn. The **overall rating was satisfactory**. The station was recently painted and a new public counter has been added, and a memorial to their fallen officers is under construction. Commissioner Bacio noted that there is a lack of parking for deputies, their staff and the public. Also, it is advisable that a surveillance camera be installed on the west side of the station.

### **Norwalk Court**

Commissioners Moore and Bacio visited the Norwalk Superior Court, 12720 Norwalk Boulevard, Norwalk, on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The Officer in charge was Sgt. Rita Hall and both she and Deputy Rodriguez acted as the Commissioners' escort. The **overall rating was satisfactory**. There are several issues of concern, such as: the elevator is out of order and will take approximately 10 weeks to repair; there are no First Aid or Suicide Kits on the upper floors; and panic buttons would be advisable on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors.

### **Barry Nidorff Juvenile Hall**

Commissioners Stathatos and Cannella visited the Barry Nidorff Juvenile Hall, 16350 Filbert, Sylmar on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Officer in charge was Ron Barrett and the Assistant Superintendent was Paula Heath. The facility was clean and well maintained; the **overall rating was satisfactory**. A sizeable medical staff of nurses, dentists and mental health staff is maintained. Practical vocational training, such as kitchen help or yard worker is offered. Several new programs have been initiated, such as a Grievance Hearing Officer Program, where minors can voice their problems and an Advocacy Clinic where a non-profit group of attorneys meet with the minors and staff to address their concerns. The emphasis is on behavior modification and re-enforcing the positive in the minors rather than the negative. There is a store where the minors can buy items with their "good behavior" points.

Areas of concern: Metal detector should be monitored at all times by experienced staff to prevent contraband entering facility; the controlled area at the entrance of the camp needs to be cleaned-up; more pillows and pillow cases needed in unit Z; minors as well as staff suggested more variety in the food menus. Shirley Alexander, Detention Services Bureau Chief, is formulating new menus for all three juvenile facilities.

### **Children Are Our Future Group Home**

Commissioners Stathatos and Cannella visited the Children Are Our Future, 669 W. Calaneros, Altadena on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The Director is Mike Linquata and their escort was Pauline Sanders. The **overall rating was excellent**. The locking door on the medicine cabinet needs to be replaced.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Stathatos reported that an open house tribute to Sybil Brand is tentatively scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> in room #739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE MEETING)**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

***Sherry Scates***  
**Staff, Commission Services**